

412-3
ITEM 9 Local Bloc Conferences Reveal Need of Socialists to Improve Liaison and Leadership - Shakai Shimbun - 22 Dec 47. Translator: T. Kitayama. (R)

Full Translation:

As a result of the Socialist Party's emerging as the top party, the KATAYAMA cabinet, led by the Socialists, was born. The country's laboring masses must have expected that their wishes might at least now be listened to, even though their hopes and desires might not be considered by the government. However, the masses have not easily been afforded that opportunity.

In order to hear the wishes of the masses through local members of the party, and also to convey the central situation to the districts, the Organizational Department of the party on 27 and 28 Jul held a conference of all chief secretaries and heads of organizational departments throughout the country. The Organizational Department also scheduled the holding of local bloc conferences.

Conferences of the KANTO Bloc in TOKYO, CHUGOKU and SHIKOKU Bloc in OKAYAMA, KYUSHU Bloc in SAGA, HOKURIKU and SHIN-ETSU Bloc in KANAZAWA, and HOKKAIDO and TOHOKU Bloc in MORIOKA, have already been held. Conferences of the KINKI and TOKAI blocs have been postponed, but will be held on 25 and 26 Dec.

With the party convention drawing near, I have planned, through these bloc conferences, to gather and study reports of the situation existing in different parts of the country. I am grateful for the hopes and enthusiasm which local members of the party have manifested in these conferences.

Lack of Liaison between National, Local Districts

The most deplorable factor was the lack of liaison between national headquarters and local districts. Local members have not been able to understand fully the policies and plans of both the government and the party. Local members, together with the masses, have become highly critical, and have not been able to become enthusiastic about cooperating with the government. As these members have not been able to obtain the necessary facts and figures and programs with which to explain the government's economic measures, they have not been able to stand at the head, and lead the masses of people.

There are very few party members who are confident of being able to enlighten and lead the people. As a whole, the conferences emphasized the necessity of strengthening the party headquarters' function to lead and guide. Needless to say, speech meetings are necessary in order to have the people understand and approve the Government's policies. "Street-corner Diet sessions" are also necessary, but the most important requirement is that headquarters present detailed reports

POLITICAL SERIES: 2162 (Continued)ITEM 9 (Continued)

and information to the local districts through the conferences.

Problems concerning the Japanese Farmers Union and the National Farmers Union were earnestly discussed. The discussions did not center on such questions of personality as "who did what or why" but on the necessity and desire of unifying a farmers' front along anti-Communist lines, from the point of view of determining what is proper in a farmers' movement.

Dissatisfaction was strongly voiced over the weakness of leadership shown in the establishment of cooperative agricultural associations. Opinions of the laborers centered around opposition to the 1,800 yen wage base. As conclusion, it was agreed that the Socialist Party must come to have a more closer grasp of the hopes and feelings of laborers.

Opinions on the problem of local finances with regard to putting 6-3 educational system into practice, the establishment of measures for medium and small industries, and the dissatisfaction over the bureaucratization of the KATAYAMA cabinet were also strongly voiced.

Describe Problems of Local Organizations

Regarding problems of local organizations, it was pointed out that positive efforts were not being made for the acquirement of party members, and that daily strifes were lukewarm. Even activity centralized in local assemblies lack unity, and business affairs of party management were not being performed. Strifes over sphere of influence within the same constituency were being held as being more important than strifes over ideologies, it was also brought out.

In order to enlarge and strengthen the party in the future, it is necessary that concrete measures be taken for the reconstruction of JAPAN, instead of listing mere ideological points. Principle of leadership should be established so that the character of the party may be clarified, and the present situation within the party, in which the character of a public party is overshadowed by that of a private party, should be overcome.

Those who are made deaf by the greed for political power cannot hear the voices of the masses on the street. The Socialist Party, which is inclining toward the pitfall of the easy-goingness of bureaucracy, is on the verge of losing the trust of the people as the economic crisis and the instability of the people's livelihood continues to grow worse. It is of an urgent necessity that the party conduct a rigid self-criticism of itself, and make a new start.

(The above article was written by KATO, Ryoza, chief of the Socialist Party's Organizational Department, and appeared in the SHAKAI SHIMPO. the Socialist Party organ.)

412.3

ITEM 8 Diet Member Narushige Bolts Socialist Party - Mainichi - 24 Dec 47.
Translator: Y. Sato. (TST)

Full Translation:

Diet member NARUSHIGE, Koshin, a Socialist, formally expressed his determination to bolt the Party and offered his resignation as head of the Party's Kokura Chapter at its standing committee meeting yesterday.

ITEM 8 Hirano Faction Secession Proposed - Mainichi - 14 Dec 47. Translator:
B. Ishibashi. (GES)

412.3 Full Translation:

The internal situation of the Socialist Party, which is the axle of the Katayama Cabinet, constitutes a factor which can vitally affect the political situation. Socialists affiliated with the National Farmers Union who were disgruntled over the Hirano issue have begun to move for the formation of a new party. On the other hand, the left-wingers are threatening to become an opposition within the Socialist Party, claiming that "they reserve the freedom of criticism against the Katayama Cabinet". A change in the balance of power within the Socialist Party can exert great influence because this is a Socialist-headed cabinet.

Socialist left-wingers, including the May Society, attempted, through the nomination of NOMIZO as Agriculture and Forestry Minister, to shift the deadlocked cabinet policies from the coalition basis to the Socialists' line. Their attempt failed in the face of outright opposition by the Democratic and People's Co-operative Parties to NOMIZO's nomination. The Government, hemmed in between Socialist leftists who recommend NOMIZO's nomination and the Democrats and People's Co-operatives who are opposed, made painstaking efforts to settle the deadlocked situation but, in the end, abandoned the

POLITICAL SERIES: 2152 (Continued)

ITEM 8 (Continued)

idea of appointing NOMIZO. As a result, the left-wingers, whose dissatisfaction had been very strong because of the little chance left for them to advance since the formation of the Cabinet, have become openly opposed to the Government high quarters.

Reserves Right to Criticize

Their claim that if NOMIZO is not nominated they would reserve the freedom of criticism and action against the present Cabinet are not merely threatening words. Thus far, rightists had been more influential within the party than the left-wingers. However, as a result of having removed HIRANO from the cabinet, KATAYAMA and NISHIO aroused the rightists, including those affiliated with the NFU who otherwise would have continued supporting them. Now these elements have become openly opposed to the Cabinet. This is evidenced by the fact that in the voting of non-confidence in Chief Cabinet Secretary NISHIO presented by the Liberal Party, 20 Socialist Diet members affiliated with the NFU failed to appear so that they would not have to vote against the resolution.

Socialist leftists, who had been waiting for a fall of the stronghold of the rightists to be brought about by HIRANO's dismissal, urged party executives to dispose of these elements on the grounds that their mass absenteeism disrupted party unity. To compose these internal differences, the Thursday Club, neutral faction of the party, intervened between the Government and left-wingers and former members of the now defunct Japan Labor Party attempted, from a standpoint favorable to the Hirano faction, to mediate between the two parties. However, the party's internal situation proved too serious for any mediator to reach an amicable settlement. As a result these problems are to be carried over to the party's general meeting slated for the early part of next January. Thus viewed, it is clear that the forthcoming general meeting will prove to be the major test, not only for the Katayama Cabinet, but also for the Socialist Party.

Action Indicates Secession

Backers of HIRANO have already begun to isolate themselves from the course of the party in view of the unreasonable government action in ousting HIRANO and the growth in power of the left-wingers. By joining hands with some members among the People's Co-operative and Farmers' Parties and the First Diet Members Club, they participated in the movement for the formation of a new party and secretly joined the New Political Council upon the basis of which the new party would be formed. The council, after completing the necessary preparations by also maintaining liaison with those belonging to the Farm Village Co-operative Democratic Diet Members League within the Democratic Party, will be organized as a party. Thus, indications are strong that secession of the Hirano faction is now a question of time.

It is obvious, however, that how the issue of HIRANO's purge will be settled will have a vital bearing on the problem, causing a change in the number of those who act with him. The number is estimated, for the time being, at more than 20. It is possible that the faction will secede from the party before the holding of the party's general meeting according to the circumstances. The remaining rightists, surprised at the move on the part of those affiliated with the NFU, began to try to induce them to stay in the party, at the same time attempting to nullify the maneuvers for the formation of a new party. However, it is still uncertain whether their efforts will produce satisfactory results.

POLITICAL SERIES: 2152 (Continued)

ITEM 8 (Continued)

The left-wingers are making preparations for the general meeting of the party. If the secession of the Hirano faction is realized before the holding of the meeting, it is expected that the leftists will advance on a large scale and take the lead in the meeting, creating the possibility of their making impossible demands of the Katayama Cabinet in the name of the party resolution. If the rightists should fight it out with the leftists, it is predictable that another division to follow that caused by the Hirano faction's secession would be realized. It can be said that the opposition between the Cabinet and the left-wingers and Hirano faction's move toward the formation of a new party, both arising out of the internal situation of the Socialist Party, serve to indicate, in conjunction with the internal situations of other parties, the approaching reorganization of the spheres of influence of the various parties.

ITEM 3 Socialist Internal Conflict Assuming Larger Proportions - Tokyo
Shimbun - 27 Dec 47. Translator: R. Shibata. (JJY)

412.3

Full Translation:

Since the dismissal of HERANO from the post of agriculture-forestry minister, the internal conflict of the Socialist Party has assumed serious proportions. Recently the offensive of the left-wingers has been a challenge to the Katayama and Nishio factions.

In view of this situation, a voluntary meeting of Socialists will be held on 28 December in a Lower House chamber to discuss party unity, with such members of the former Japan Labor Party as MATSUMOTO, Junzo, and HOSONO, Michio, who are between the right and left elements, as the promoters. Invitations to this meeting have already been sent to all Socialist Diet members. However, the Socialists affiliated with the National Farmers Union are apparently determined to stay away from the meeting, and, furthermore, the majority of the party members have returned to their electoral districts. Few are expected to attend the meeting.

With the general party meeting scheduled for 16 January, the Socialists from the former Japan Labor Party are attempting to reduce intraparty opposition. Their movement along this line is expected to become active before or after the 28 December meeting. On the other hand, left-wingers centering around the SATSUKI-KAI, being dissatisfied with the recent compromising attitude of Chief Cabinet Secretary NISHIO, have proposed to Premier KATAYAMA the realization of Socialist policies, and, at the same time, are considering opposing other factions by putting forward their members as candidates for chairman and chief-secretary at the general meeting of the party. They are now selecting suitable candidate. Under consideration are MATSUMOTO for chairman and KATO, Kanju, or INAMURA, Junzo, or YASUHIRA, Shikaichi, for secretary-general.

The neutrals intend to consolidate the party by the time of the general meeting so as to avoid a run-off election. They expect to have KATAYAMA re-elected as chairman and ASANUMA, acting secretary-general, raised to secretary-general. Some Socialist members of the former Japan Labor Party are in favor of electing MATSUOKA, Komakichi, as chairman from the viewpoint of settling intraparty disunity.

With the approach of the general meeting, struggles centering around the posts of chairman and secretary-general have gradually become serious. To meet this situation, Chief Cabinet Secretary NISHIO intends to unify the party firmly by the time of the general meeting by proceeding with negotiations with the left-wingers. Should intraparty opposition not be reduced by that time, he apparently intends to proceed further with internal negotiations even at the cost of prolongation of the meeting. Steps along this line are expected to be taken early next year.

ITEM 7 JCLU Socialists to Draw Closer to Left Wing - Jiji - 26 Dec 47.
Translator: R. Aoki. (JJY)

412.3

Full Translation:

Tokyo members of the Socialist Party belonging to the Japan Congress of Labor Unions including MATSUMOTO, SATAKE, KIKUKAWA, AMADA, SHIMA, IWAZAKI, and HOSODA conferred yesterday from 1400 hours at HOSODA's office in KAKIGARA Cho. Representatives of the Tokyo Municipal Assembly and the Japan Federation of Labor Unions were also present.

The meeting debated the stand to be taken by the group at the national meeting of the JCLU scheduled for 28 December. The meeting in general denounced the present Cabinet steered by KATAYAMA and NISHIO, who are regarded as drifting away from the main current of the Socialist Party. The group agreed to take concrete steps along this line at the JCLU meeting. The group will apparently strengthen its relationship with the party's left wing for the purpose of defeating the Katayama-Nishio influence.

ITEM 9 Japan's Socialist Party Follows Socialist Parties of France and Italy - Sekai Nippo - 19 Dec 47. Translator: Y. Ebilko. (RL)

412-3

Summary:

The left faction of the Socialist Party's is demanding enforcement of such Socialistic policies as the second property tax, suspension of payment of interest on wartime national loans, registration of new yen, etc. This can be interpreted as a concrete and open expression of the faction's discontentment, centering around problems of the state coal mining control and appointment of an agriculture-forestry minister.

Every Socialist party in the world, not only that in JAPAN, seems to be caught in the fire by its left and right wings. We see a typical example of this dilemma in ITALY, where the secession of right elements caused a split of the Socialist Party last January. In FRANCE, too, Leon BLUM's Socialist Party faced a possible split early this summer when its left faction showed dissatisfaction with the party's rightist policies. However, the crisis was surmounted when votes indicated that the general trend was still in favor of leaders of the party.

"Many minor parties" instead of "a few large parties" characterizes the current political situation in every country today, with the best examples being in FRANCE and ITALY. Our country is following the same trend one year later.

In ITALY, the Socialist Party led by NENNI inclines toward the left, and proceeds hand in hand with the Communist Party, while in FRANCE the Socialist Party has severed connection with the Communist Party and acts in collaboration with MRP's and Radicaux.

In our country, the Socialist Party has hitherto taken the same stand as the French Socialist Party. However, as our Socialist Party has no influential leaders like BLUM, the right and left elements have been kept united, not by the autonomous will of its members, but by the general political situation. Once the political situation changes, Socialist Party faces the possibility of an internal split. This can be seen by the internal confusion caused by the secession of the Hirano faction and the recent activities of its left elements.

Whether this internal disorder will develop into a secession of discontented elements, such as the SARAGATTO faction of the Italian Socialist Party, or into an anti-party leader movement, or whether party leaders will be given a vote of confidence like leaders of the French Socialist Party, will be decided at the general meeting of the Socialist Party next spring. The outcome will depend upon the difference between our political and social situations and that of FRANCE or ITALY, and upon the character of our Socialist Party itself. At any rate, we must give attention to the fact that our Socialist Party has always followed the ways of the Socialist parties of FRANCE and ITALY. The Japanese Socialist Party must be prudent, taking lessons from these two foreign parties.

ITEM 6 Future Political Situation Depends on Socialist Moves, Ashida States - Jiji - 27 Dec 47. Translator: S. Ota. (JJY)

412-3

Full Translation:

Foreign Minister ASHIDA, after returning from his trip to the KANSAI districts, held a press interview yesterday evening, at the Foreign Ministry. He stated:

"We hold to the principle of strictly observing the four-party policy accord, though, if the Socialists make a new proposal, it is another question. It seems that the left wing of the Socialist Party has recently advocated suspension of payment of bond interests and collection of a second property tax. However, they should lay to their hearts how great an unrest their contentions have created in the people's mind.

"The new party issue as well as internal problems of the Democratic Party are of no special importance. We consider that the future political situation will depend, after all, on intraparty moves of the Socialist Party."

ITEM 2 Socialist Cabinet Members Draft Plans to Check Political Crisis -
412-3 Yomiuri - 29 Dec 47. Translated by: C. Norton. (FST)

Full Translation:

Socialist cabinet members headed by Premier KATAYAMA, in an hour-long conference at the Chief Cabinet Secretary's official residence Saturday night, agreed that they must take the currently upset political situation in hand and that the Cabinet and government parties must be drawn more tightly together. Confining the exchange of opinions to elimination of the sources of political unrest, they focussed their discussion on the Socialist Party convention, the Hirano question, and policy toward new parties.

The conferences predicated their plans for meeting the crisis on the following views of the situation. (1) The new conservative party will be blocked by the far-reaching effects of hoarded goods investigations on the Liberal Party. (2) Formation of a new farm-labor party is of little account since, with the well-nigh certain purge of HIRANO, not more than four or five National Farmers Unionists will bolt the Socialist Party. (3) The party convention can be weathered through some sort of settlement with the left wing.

Whether current unrest can be allayed as easily as the Socialist ministers believe remains to be seen. Since a not inconsiderable opposition counteroffensive to this invigorated Socialist program is expected, the year-end political situation is bound to be agitated.

Ministers Seek Left-wing Issue Settlement

The Socialist ministers agreed that there is still time to heal the left-wing breach, the most serious sore spot of the present Cabinet. Support for KATAYAMA among MOKUYOKAI and Japan Congress of Labor Unions Socialists is relatively strong. While the ministers will seek to win over the faction, Premier KATAYAMA him-

POLITICAL SERIES: 2161 (Continued)

ITEM 2 (Continued)

self will tackle such leftist leaders as SUZUKI and KATO. This will halt the party fission by 16 January, date of the convention. After 5 January, positive pressure will be brought to bear on organizations sending delegates to the convention, and delegates of the leftist persuasion will be limited to a maximum of 40 percent. Success of this program will determine procedure at the convention.

Furthermore, the drive to make MATSUMOTO Party chairman has little real substance and cannot determine the general situation of the party. Even if the drive fails, the leftists could not break away from the party. Instead, it is thought, the leftists would merely take over considerable party executive power. Chairman KATAYAMA, however, would still remain in control. KATO, Kanju, if nominated for the secretary-generalship, will be accepted, but should the post fall to ASANUMA, leftist concurrence will be sought.

As a step to tranquilize the party, all party cabinet ministers except Chairman KATAYAMA will assume advisory posts and work for party solidarity. Since the leftists are pushing such socialistic policies as a second property tax and suspension of war bond interest payments, these will be brought up for discussion. However, leftist recognition of the ineffectiveness and difficulty of implementation of these policies will be sought.

Hirano Purge Certain

Although a majority of the screening committee accepted HIRANO's counterevidence on 27 December, new facts about his way of thinking provided by the Premier have made HIRANO's purge certain. Thus the new farm-labor party ceases to be a problem since it will enlist not more than two Peoples Co-operatives and four or five National Farmers Unionists.

New Conservative Party Move Collapse Seen

The ministers agreed that, as the developing hoarded goods cases implicate Liberal bigwigs, the new conservative party drive will lose its mainspring. At present, investigations are bringing to light the recipients of funds from TSUJI, Karoku. With the revelation of the large number of Liberal leaders included in this group, formation of the new party will collapse at once. Economic Stabilization Board policies should then be reattuned to the situation, the Cabinet and Government parties drawn closer together, and a counteroffensive launched. In this way, the Socialist ministers will knit themselves around the Premier and work to dispel the political uneasiness.

Policy Agreement Scheduled for Discussion

In order to conclude a new three-party policy agreement to replace the four-party one, the Cabinet and a conference of Government Party Political Research Committee chairmen to open on 8 January will study the matter concurrently. It will be drawn up by late January at the earliest. Even so, no statement specifically abrogating the old four-party agreement will be issued.

412-3
ITEM 1 Socialist Right Makes First Moves to Save Party - Mainichi - 29 Dec
47. Translator: M. Yasutake. (TK)

Full Translation:

The Socialist Party is now facing the greatest crisis since its formation due to the inactivity of the Katayama Cabinet in tiding the nation over the present national crisis and the increase in intensity of internal friction in the party. The right group with the Diet members affiliated with the former Japan Labor Party as its center, which has been considering concrete measures to strengthen the unity of the Socialist Party and surmount the present economic crisis of our country, has decided to establish a Socialist Party Current Problems Council and insist upon their stand at the coming party convention. A draft was completed after one-month study by 13 members including NISHIMURA, HOSODA, HOSONO, KATO, Ryozo, TAKANASHI, NAGAE, OYA, MAEDA, MATSUMOTO, AMADA, SATAKE, KIKUKAWA and SANO.

The first meeting of the council was held in the Diet at 1300 hours on 28 December. Besides 71 attendants including Diet members MAEDA, KIKUKAWA, MATSUMOTO, SATAKE, INOUE, YAMAGUCHI, YOSHIKAWA, NISHIMURA, MATSUBARA, HOSONO, MIZOGUCHI, ISE, AMADA, SHIMA and prefectural representatives including SANO, Education Minister MORITO specially attended the meeting. The meeting opened under the chairmanship of MAEDA. After KATO made a report, MATSUMOTO explained the general situation. Then MORITO delivered a speech stressing the unity of the Socialist Party, the middle-of-the-road course of social democracy, and its constructive policies. In the course of general discussion, it was decided that a proposal for the strengthening of the unity of the Socialist Party should be presented. A Current Problems Council was formally formed after agreeing on making efforts to win other groups of the party over to its side by newly appointing the aforementioned 13 members as managers. About 30 Diet members will belong to this council. The establishment of the Current Problems Council is the first cry raised by the right wingers with the Socialist Party convention drawing near, and it deserves our attention how the left wingers will react to this move of the right group.

The proposal made by the right wingers to strengthen the unity of the Socialist Party states, "To put the structure of the Socialist Party on a firm basis and operate it in a democratic manner, the following points should be realized.

"1. To make the Socialist Party a body for the political union of the working masses, the party should keep in close touch with the political activities of labor unions, agricultural unions, organizations of medium and small industries, and other vocational groups.

POLITICAL SERIES: 2161 (Continued)ITEM 1 (Continued)

"2. The Labor Committee, the Agricultural Committee, and other special organs of the party should be opened to party members representing labor unions through instantaneous reorganization to offer political guidance to labor unions positively.

"3. In both central and local executive bodies of the party, more than one-third of the quorum of the committee members should be held by party members who do not have seats in the Diet.

"4. Party affairs should be separated from political affairs to the maximum possible extent and the post of the chief of an important party branch should be held by such a person as will be able to devote himself to the execution of these duties.

"5. The Political Research Committee should be opened to all party members. The committee should handle matters related with Diet activities.

"6. To realize the fair and prompt operation of the Control Committee, the committee should be strengthened by appointing right persons as its members.

"Party principles should put clear stress upon the following points:

"1. The Socialist Party will offer positive co-operation to the establishment of world peace and of a democratic international structure and will concentrate its efforts upon the stabilization of JAPAN's politics and economy.

"2. The party will fully assume the responsibility of stabilizing the people's livelihood and will make this the basis of its activities.

"3. The party will make efforts to realize and develop socialistic policies for industrial reconstruction and the stabilization of the people's livelihood.

"4. The party will wage a thoroughgoing struggle against all tendencies and movements which will disrupt the economy and hamper industrial reconstruction.

"5. The party will connect its Diet activities closely with organizations of the masses and will display them as a national struggle.

"The Socialist Party will make efforts to realize the following emergency policies:

"1. The establishment of sound finance:

- A. The disposition of national liabilities and burdens to be borne by the people in the future due to the war should be carried out separately from the establishment of finance which aims at industrial reconstruction and the stabilization of the people's livelihood.
- B. The thoroughgoing application of the principle of justice in the distribution of burdens upon the people and the restudy of finance.
- C. The assumption by the State of responsibility for reconstructing industry and stabilizing the people's livelihood.

"2. Industrial reconstruction and the thoroughgoing execution of socialistic policies:

- A. The adoption of thoroughgoing food measures.
- B. A guarantee to the working classes of a life based on rationing.
- C. The procurement of necessary goods for farmers and fishermen.
- D. The reconstruction of a stabilizing zone between commodity prices and wages and the establishment of the sliding-scale wage system.
- E. Guarantee of housing for the working people.
- F. The adoption of a system of responsibility for increased production in important industries.
- G. The realization of State supervision of electric enterprises.
- H. The promotion of medium and small industries.
- I. The execution of an enterprise rationalization and administrative adjustment.

POLITICAL SERIES: 2161 (Continued)

ITEM 1 (Continued)

- J. The establishment of unemployment measures
- K. The completion of the 6-3 educational system and the execution of educational reform."

Education Minister MORITO Expresses Opinion

Education Minister MORITO, who is a member of the association of Diet members belonging to the National Farmers Union yesterday issued a statement in which he clarified his stand regarding the new party movement led by HIRANO, and at the same time stressed his intention of making efforts to preserve the unity of the Socialist Party. It is now attracting attention what role MORITO will play in the future development of the political situation.

MORITO's statement:

"As for the Hirano case, I feel sympathy for HIRANO. However, my opinion is entirely different from his opinion regarding the new party movement. It is because I believe firmly that the enlargement of parties based on parliamentarism along sound lines is the only way to save the nation from the present crisis. I believe that all acts which will cause a split or confusion in the party should be strictly avoided. We must prove that the Socialist Party is a party for the working people by clarifying its character as a socialistic party and by adhering more persistently to democratic principles as a means to solidify the unity of the party. I hope strongly that both the leaders and the common members of the Socialist Party will make maximum efforts to do honor to the party along the above mentioned lines."

ITEM 6 New Party Move of Socialist Right Wing Jolts Party - Yomiuri -
 21 Dec 47. Translator: A. Kawamura. (DD)

4/12-3
 Full Translation:

Together with the Socialist leftists' declaration of becoming an opposition faction within the party, the new party formation movement, started by the Hirano faction of the same party, has created serious unrest within the party. With the attacks of the pro-Cabinet forces to split up the HIRANO faction starting a few days ago, and the party's old Japan Labor Party faction, which has been quietly studying the situation, scheduling a Cabinet critique meeting for 28 December, the moves within the party have gradually grown more and more complicated and delicate.

Meanwhile, in TOKYO, members of the New Politics Council and the Socialists' Hirano faction have been steadily advancing the preliminaries for the formation of the new party, while the National Farmers Union is expected to decide its formal attitude toward the new party issue at its Diet members' general meeting slated for 22 December.

At this general meeting, the NFU is expected to change its policy of supporting the Socialists. It will discuss the character and organization of the proposed new party and decide on the best time to secede from the Socialist Party. However, with the Hirano faction within the NFU showing such a strong attitude toward a resolution demanding Premier KATAYAMA's resignation, speculations are circulating as to whether some members of the old Japan Labor Party, which has heretofore been lukewarm toward the new party formation move, will let themselves be talked into going along it.

Against this movement of the NFU faction, the Socialist Party leaders have started counteraction to break up the new party movement. Speaker MATSUOKA met HIRANO on 18 December and tried to persuade him to drop his new-party formation activities, while the older members of the party, such as KAGAWA are reported to have been trying to sever SATAKE, KANO, and TANAKA from the move.

Party Leaders' Efforts Fail

However, HIRANO rejected MATSUOKA's proposal, and members of medium standing did not comply, so the efforts of the party leaders to cut up the Hirano faction failed. Rather, their efforts have had the converse effect of strengthening the Hirano faction.

In line with the complicated state within the party, the old Japan Labor Party faction has scheduled a round-table conference on the state of the times for 28 December in the Diet Building. They are to recriticize the policies of the present Cabinet and the direction being taken by the party and to decide their attitude as a faction. The Diet members of the old Japan Labor faction of the Socialist Party all seem to feel that the policies of the Cabinet have bogged down at present because the Cabinet overly compromised on these policies. It appears that in their recritique of the present Cabinet's policies as well as the party's policies, they will make strong demands of the Cabinet and also ask that the leftists be held back.

However, this round-table conference is being arranged by NAGAE, OYA, and others of the Nishio faction and by SATAKE, MATSUMOTO, and AMADA of the new party faction, which is like throwing cats and dogs together. The new party faction is expected to make a bombshell demand for the Premier's resignation as the political action to be adopted as an outcome of recriticizing the present Cabinet's policies. It is observed, therefore, that over this issue the old Japan Labor faction will develop a strong tendency toward a split.

The subsequent development of this movement started within the Socialist Party by its right-wing is regarded as something directly affecting the destiny of the present Cabinet, which is based upon the right-wing faction; and, therefore, the moves taken by the various influences within the Socialist Party in the next few days will be interesting to note.

ITEM 1

412.3

Katayama Cabinet Should Resign, Declares Veteran Socialist Leftist -
Yomiuri - 26 Dec 47. Translator: S. Sano. (DD)

Full Translation:

Upper House Vice-chairman MATSUMOTO, Jiichiro, further strengthened the Socialist left-wing opposition to present Cabinet policies when he released a statement to a Mainichi reporter on 25 Dec at his home in FUKUOKA Ken, where he has been staying since 15 Dec when the Diet session recessed. This statement gains importance from the fact that it was issued at a time when the split in the Socialist Party is threatening political stability more than the emergence of the new party movement.

The statement in which he reaffirmed the leftists opposition to the present Cabinet follows:

On 19 Dec Chief Cabinet Secretary NISHIO came to KYUSHU and stayed at my house although I recommended twice that he had better stop at the official residence of the governor. As it was a cold snowy night, we went to bed early without talking of anything important. However, the next day, the newspapers reported that, as a result of a secret talk between us, a provisional agreement was reached to mitigate the tough attitude of the leftists. It occurred to me that NISHIO is a realistic politician, because he thinks that politics is compromise. However, the present offensive of the leftists cannot be so readily routed. The Opposition statement made by the left-wing May Society was not made lightly. I fear that mediation by NISHIO would end in an aggravation of the situation.

Politics by Secret Agreements

I believe that the most important point in politics is to carry out promises. At present, politics by secret agreement is prevalent, although there is an excess of lip service paid to the spirit of democracy. Politicians are looking to their own interests although they preach that they strive for the promotion of national interests and the welfare of the people. There is no difference between present politics and the former abnormal politics which led to the tragedy of JAPAN. There is no real democracy here.

Let us take, for example, the Agriculture and Forestry Minister issue. I cannot believe, even at present, that HATANO really accepted the portfolio of the Agriculture and Forestry Minister. Immediately before his nomination, he came to me and sought my advice. I advised him to absolutely refuse the post. Consequently, he promised he would not accept it. However, within an hour after our talk, it was reported by radio that he was appointed Agriculture and Forestry Minister.

see this

POLITICAL SERIES: 2165 (Continued)

ITEM 1 (Continued)

I know HATANO very well because he is a representative from FUKUOKA Ken. He is not fitted to be the Agriculture and Forestry Minister and I still believe that NOMIZO is most fitted for the post. On the evening of his nomination, I attended a meeting of the leftists and they said that they could not understand why HATANO had accepted the portfolio. Since we cannot accept his nomination, it will be more difficult for the public to accept it. It is a violation of the new Constitution to do that which the public does not support. At present the Socialist Party is being bitterly criticized by the very public that had supported it in the last general election. Public opinion faithfully reflects what people think. Now is the time for the Socialist Party to do some serious reflecting.

Single Party Cabinet Should Be Formed

The fate of the Katayama Cabinet, which even permits internal interference by the parties, is sealed. The Cabinet should determine to resign and bid the Coalition Government goodby. Then it should demonstrate to the public that politics can be carried on only by politicians who are well aware of shame and responsibility. KATAYAMA had better stop preaching his time-worn exhortations for national unity which was used to advantage by the Imperial Rule Assistance Association during the war. Furthermore, there is no need for NISHIO to declare that the Peace Conference should be concluded by the present Cabinet. Sticking to the policy agreement among the three parties is suicidal. The only course to be taken by the Socialist Party is to form a single party cabinet. Until the realization of the Socialist single party cabinet, we should not hesitate to face general elections, however frequently they may be held.

Along with resignation from office, it is necessary for the party to clear away its dissident elements. HIRANO seems to have become a capitalist now that he is well off. It seems to me that NISHIO also is becoming more forgetful of the day when he was a worker. Some Socialists who joined the party purely to ride the bandwagon during the last April elections should be expelled at this time. I am of the opinion that even at the danger of a party split next year, the Socialist Party should do its utmost to recover the confidence of the public again by changing into a class party.

412-3
 ITEM 10 Leftists World Elect Matsumoto as Socialist Party Chief - Yomiuri -
26 Dec 47. Translator: K. Murakami. (RL)

Summary:

After the left-wing Socialists announced that they could no longer cooperate with the cabinet during the issue created by the appointment of the Agriculture Minister, their counter-Government movement has been growing increasingly active. Leading Leftist SUZUKI, Mosaburo rejected Premier KATAYAMA's attempt at conciliation, stating, "The present cabinet has changed into an all-Democrat cabinet."

The leftists declared, "We cannot cooperate with a cabinet led by the Democrats. If the cabinet wants our support, it must be more faithful to Socialist measures."

This firm attitude does not give with the view of some younger leftists, who passed the State Coal Control Bill in the face of their compatriots' criticism that it was an emasculated bill.

In truth, this anti-cabinet movement of the left faction is in part at least, an attempt to take over the rightists' leadership which has been declining since the HIRANO issue. The NOMIZO issue further stiffened their attitude.

Another reason for the leftists' firm attitude is their lack of confidence in NISHIO. When the leftists proposed to NISHIO the appointment of NOMIZO as agriculture minister, he answered that he would give their proposal the deepest consideration. The fact is that NISHIO had already determined to select HATANO. Discovering this move, the leftists were highly incensed at the cabinet secretary.

NISHIO, who had been denounced by the National Farmers Union on the charge of treachery at the time of the HIRANO issue, was now hemmed in by the attacks from the right and left. With the party's national convention before them, the leftists think that they can no longer cooperate with the KATAYAMA-NISHIO line, but should endeavor to take over the party's leadership at the coming meeting. Their TOKYO leaders seem to have agreed on the appointment of MATSUMOTO, Jiichiro as chairman, and KATO, Kanju as chief secretary.

Ex-members of the Japan Labor Party and the NFU members are against NISHIO, and recommend MATSUOKA, Komakichi and ASANUMA, Inajiro to the two posts. However the former Japan Labor Party members may support present Chairman KATAYAMA, depending upon NISHIO's attitude. For the present, only the Thursday Society supports the KATAYAMA-NISHIO combination. NISHIO himself plans the selection of KATAYAMA as chairman, MATSUMOTO the vice chairman, himself as chief secretary, and ASANUMA as assistant chief secretary. The leftists, however, will flatly refuse his plan.

If KATAYAMA should fail in maintaining the chairmanship, he would probably give up the cabinet. If NISHIO should be relieved of the chief secretary's post by a leftist, Premier KATAYAMA has said he will not desert NISHIO. Under such circumstances, the forthcoming party convention will exert a great influence upon the future development of the political situation.

412-3
 ITEM 12 May Club Will Not Compromise - Yomiuri - 26 Dec 47. Translator:
K. Yasutake. (MK)

Full Translation:

About ten members of the May Club, an organization of the Socialist Party, including INAMURA, Junjo; AKAMATSU, Isamu; KIMURA, Kihachiro and TANAKA, Orinoshin, met at Socialist Party headquarters at 1300 hours on 25 December. After reports were given on the activities of various local labor unions and farmers' unions, tactics to be used at the Socialist Party convention were discussed.

The May Club's declaration to reserve the right to speak and act independently within the party, which was announced on 13 December was reconfirmed. A vigorous drive to expel any compromising policy and to be driven home to every lower organ of the party was proposed. It was also decided that efforts should be made to win over the left-wing Diet Members who will attend the coming general meeting.

ITEM 4 Socialists to Demand Leadership and Socialistic Policies - Tokyo
Mimpo - 23 Dec 47. Translator: K. Yasutake. (DD)

412.3

Full Translation:

The Political Affairs Investigation Committee of the Socialist Party, which has decided to abandon the four-party policy agreement, has decided to rush concrete plans for the drawing-up of a new agreement as soon as SUZUKI, chairman of the committee, now on a speaking tour in YAMAGATA, returns to TOKYO. Both President ASHIDA and Chief Cabinet Secretary NISHIO, have declared their preparedness to get together on a new three-party policy agreement.

Concerning this proposed three-party agreement, the Socialist Party's May Society has already asked that the following points be observed:

1. The autonomy of the Socialist Party should be restored. Further, its leadership in the Cabinet should be secured.

2. The socialistic measures for breaking through the crisis, which is essentially the Socialist Party should be strongly woven into the administration.

3. Nothing should be included in the agreement which will in any way permit one party to interfere in matters of personnel or other internal affairs of another party.

The party's intermediate elements - the Thursday Club and the SCJ - have also stated, with regard to the compilation of the 1948 fiscal year budget, "The budget compilation program of the Political Affairs Investigation Committee is incomplete and lukewarm." The Committee intends to respect these general wishes expressed by the May and the Thursday Clubs and concretely write the adoption of socialistic policies into the new agreement draft.

SUZUKI, chairman of the committee, remarked before he started for YAMAGATA, "Drastic measures must be adopted with regard to the banking organs if we are to break the present economic crisis."

It is believed, therefore, that he will demand strong control over the key banking organs, not to speak of the levying of a second property tax, the suspension of interest payment on war bonds, and the complete cancellation of the frozen deposits.

The Democrats, headed by Finance Minister KURUSU, are strongly opposed to controls over banking organs. However, in his general administration policy speech given at the beginning of the first session of the Diet, Premier KATAYAMA clearly stated, "Banking shall be democratically controlled to serve industry." Therefore, it is felt that the Democrats cannot very well openly oppose this. However, should the Socialists strongly insist on this point, it may well invite a battle greater than the one that was fought over the Coal Mine State Control issue; and, thus, this policy agreement issue may prove to be a bigger headache than expected.

ITEM 6 Leftist-Rightist Fight Upsets Aichi Socialist Convention - Nihon
Keizai - 24 Dec 47. Translator: M. Ota. (DD)

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412.3

Full Translation:

At the annual convention held by the Aichi Prefectural Federation of the Socialist Party on 22 Dec, the left-wing elements, who were determined to elect KATO, Kanju again to the chairmanship, were pitted against the right-wing elements, who were in favor of Diet member HAYASHI, Daisaku as the next chairman. A free fight ensued, and finally the left-wing elements withdrew from the meeting hall on the grounds that the small number of delegates in attendance did not allow the holding of a convention.

However, the right-wing elements thereupon regarded the remaining delegates as sufficient to hold a convention, and they went ahead and elected Diet member HAYASHI as chairman and NAGASE, Shigetaro as vice-chairman.

In order to clear up this awkward situation, Diet member HAYASHI and one other rightist member got together with Diet member AKAMATSU and four other leftists to form a committee and negotiated on this issue on 23 Dec. As a result, it was decided to hold a meeting of an enlarged executive committee on the 24th with the attendance of the former officers, and discuss means of solving this problem.

ITEM 14 Socialist Party Verges on 4-way Split - Jinmin - 29 December 47.

Translator: Y. Terasawa, (UG)

Summary:

A four-way split in the ranks of the Socialist Party bodes ill for that Party's convention scheduled for 16 January. The four factions--HIRANO faction, the former Labor Party faction, the left wing and the NISHIO faction--will be examined below.

Hirano Faction

NFU Diet members of the Hirano group have agreed to bolt the Socialist Party before the general meeting on 16 January. The ex-Japan Labor Party faction, including SATAKE, Haruki and MATSUMOTO, Junzo, are determined to stay with the party until at least after the Socialist convention and to do their utmost to prevent the NFU from bolting before them.

But, at a meeting attended by KIKUGAWA, SANO, and KATO, of the JUP faction and HIRANO and AKAIATSU of the NFU group in KUDAN on 16 December, negotiations ended in failure.

Thus, it was decided that the Hirano group will leave the party to form a new party while the ex-Japan Labor Party faction will remain.

The Hirano group is planning to win the Peoples Co-operative Party into the new party. But the number of PCP members who will join the group depends upon the attitude of OKADA, Seiichi. If the situation improves, there is great possibility of FUNADA and MIKI, two PCP leaders, coming into their fold. The PCP will determine its own position at its party meeting to be held from 7 January. The Hirano group cannot expect to be too optimistic regarding their plan.

The greatest drawback in the formation of the new party is that it receives backing from the farmers but no support from labor unions. As a result it will be unable to check labor offensives. For that reason the Hirano group wants to tie up with the Japan Labor Party faction.

Japan Labor Party Faction

The JLP faction sticking with the Socialist Party intends to support the left wing or the NISHIO group--or whichever offers the most. It is believed, however, that SANO, and NABEYAMA, will join with the JLP group in its moves, and NABEYAMA who is intimate with NISHIO will side with him.

MATSUMOTO, Junzo and KATO, Ryoze met MORI, Mikiji and KAWASHIMA, Kinji of the Thursday Society and received assurances of the latter's support for ASANUMA, Inajiro, who will be recommended as chief-secretary when the election of Socialist officials takes place.--MATSUMOTO also conferred with the leftist. This seems to indicate that the JLP group intends to spread its influence by taking advantage of factional disputes within the Socialist Party.

Left Wing

The May Society, with leftists assuming the leadership, is trying to recover its popularity under the banner of a socialist policy. It

held a meeting at the home of MATSUMOTO, Jiichiro, on 8 December and discussed the position it will take at the convention. Its attitude is not fixed as yet.

Basic policies will be centered around the prevention of inflation and enterprise readjustment. However, its real aim is to take advantage of the difference between the NISHIO and JLP groups and gain control of the party. Certain left wingers are said to be dissatisfied with this opportunism.

Nishio Group

Having had a head-on collision with HIRANO, NISHIO will strongly insist in an effort to counter new party moves of the Hirano group that HIRANO be purged. However, NISHIO is not completely free from suspicion in the press purge; so the matter has complications.

At the election of party officials he will recommend KATAYAMA as chairman and himself as chief-secretary. And he intends to give KATO, Kanju, the chairmanship of the Socialist Party Diet steering committee.

Thus, checking the dissatisfaction in the left wing camp, he will try to grasp the reins of power by whatever means are at his disposal.

4123
 ITEM 3 Bourgeois Leftist Kato, Kanju Seeks Socialist Chief Secretaryship -
Seiji - 24 Dec 47. Translator: A. Kido.

Full Translation:

No sooner did KATO, Kanju return to politics than some observers criticized him for having had a hand in war material operations during the war and for permitting his monthly living expenses to become so large.

KATO dismissed these accusations by saying that his former dealings in commodities were only "natural" for one trying to earn a living. He also maintained that it is only "natural" for a politician's living expenses to be high.

It is widely rumored that KATO is strongly supported by businessmen of AICHI Ken, and that he has some influential patrons.

KATO's elder brother, KATO, Taiichi, who died during the war in the Straits of KOREA, was one of the leaders of the Minseito Party. His wife, Mrs KATO, Shizue, had been the beloved wife of the late Baron ISHIMOTO. KATO himself is an intimate friend of such celebrated persons as FUJITA, Isamu, and TOKUGAWA, Yoshichika. He is intimate with the KUCAWA's former lords, and is now operating a newspaper business with TOKUGAWA, Yoshichika.

Some Socialists speak of KATO as a bourgeois. On the other hand, his popularity among laborers seems not to have been lost, apparently because of his eloquency and appearance. Lately, however, we have come to hear some say that they have tired of his tour of speech.

The Socialist Party's convention, slated to start on 16 January, will apparently face difficulties in the re-election of its leaders. The leftists are insisting on the appointment of MATSUMOTO as head of the party, and KATO as chief secretary. Should the KATAYAMA cabinet continue in office until the party convention, the chairmanship of the party no doubt will again go to KATAYAMA. Should it be decided that KATAYAMA will no longer be the premier, his position in the party will at once change, and the chairmanship will most likely go to MATSUMOTO.

A full-time chief secretary will be decided at the convention. ASANUMA, Jiro is the most likely candidate for the post, but the confrontation between left and right wings will probably cause trouble even in this case. Similarly the realization of KATO as a full time chief secretary can hardly be expected without MATSUMOTO also becoming party head. The self-introspection of the labor union movements since the abortive 1 February strike, and the decline of the pro-Communist influence are not believed to have made the time favorable for these moves.

Since the surrender, KATO has played a leading role in the leftist labor union movement. He promoted the mass rally to welcome NOZAKA, Sanzo, back to JAPAN, and is the leader of the common front of the Socialist and Communist parties. KATO has revealed a hard-pressed and difficult position over his declaration of breaking from the Communist Party, released through foreign newspapermen.

KATO, as chairman of the committee for the exposure and disposal of concealed and hoarded goods, has not even completed one-half of his work. His task may be a most difficult one, and yet he is the person for the task. Some Diet members sarcastically remark that should the Diet be dissolved before his work is finished, KATO would feel no doubt relieved. We, however, should like to believe that he would feel regret.

The rightists rail at the formalistic leadership of SUZUKI and KATO of the Socialist left wing, and say that it means destruction of the party. SUZUKI and KATO feel that it is they who can save the party. Let us allow them some time for realizing their assertion.

ITEM 4 Expectations of the Left Wing of the Socialist Party - Tokyo Mimpo -
28 Dec 47. Translator: M. Minato. (DD)

412.3 Summary:

The political offensive by the left wingers of the Socialist Party, who published antigovernment statements has become increasingly active. At SENDAI, Mr SUZUKI, HOSABURO, a left-wing leader, declared that since the present Cabinet has been practically transformed into a Democratic-led Government, he wanted the resignation of all the Socialist members of the Cabinet from the Central Executive Committee determined at the Party meeting scheduled for next January. Also, it is reported that the left-wingers will negotiate with the Government to make a new agreement on policies among the three government parties instead of the heretofore four-party agreement. The new agreement will favor the original policies of the Socialist Party, such as the suspension of payment of interests on national bonds, the imposition of the second property tax and the enforcement of the third farmland reform.

However, when we recall the past actions of the left wingers, we cannot unconditionally believe their statements. If the left wingers had taken the strong attitude they are taking at present, the agreement on policies would not have been reached among the four major political parties. Therefore, the left wingers are also responsible for the agreement on policies. Also, they published an anti-Communist statement at the time of the formation of the Katayama Cabinet, and enabled the right wingers to display their political strength during the first session of the Diet. However, the left wingers will probably say that they are taking a decisive attitude because they have learned much from the bitter experiences in the past. If they are resolved to realize their policies at any cost, we will overlook their past failures. However, we would like to list three points and request their careful consideration.

Firstly, Democratic President ASHIDA definitely declared at the Kyushu District Rally that as long as the Democratic Party remained in the Cabinet it would never make the Katayama Cabinet enforce socialist policies and that he had no intention of nullifying the four party agreement. Secondly, Premier KATAYAMA definitely declared, at the Cabinet meeting on 23 Dec, that he had no intention of taking up

the radical policies of the left wingers as a new agreement on policies. Thirdly, Liberal President YOSHIDA declared, at the Kochi prefectural rally, that the Socialist Party, whose character is dubious, has no raison d'etre unless it was absorbed by the Liberal or Communist parties.

With these facts in mind, if the left wingers attempt to realize their avowal, they will certainly meet many difficulties. Under such circumstances, will they be able to seize control of the party at the coming Party meeting? Even if they can seize control of the party, will they be able to make the Government realize their policies even at the cost of the Government? Are they prepared for desertion in case of their defeat? Only when they go their way decisively will the public support their actions.

ITEM 4 Left Wing Socialists Asked to be Prudent - Tokyo Minpo - 27 December 47.
Translator: S. Katagiri. (I.L.)

412-3

Full Translation:

The Central Executive Committee of the Socialist Party held an emergency roundtable discussion on 26 December in the Diet building. Counter measures for the new party moves as well as urgent problems pertaining to compilation of the budget estimates and the policy agreement were discussed.

Premier KATAYAMA, Chief Cabinet Secretary NISHIO, and other Ministers from the party attended the roundtable discussion. The

Premier expressed his determination to overcome the present political crisis, with the following measures to be taken:

1. The government has no intention of adopting the establishment of a second property tax, or of suspending interest payments on wartime loans and frozen deposits, as asserted by the party's Political Affairs Investigation Committee. The government will make efforts to arrive at a conclusion on the basis of harmony between the Socialist and Democratic parties.

2. The government will not scrap the four-party policy agreement in consideration of the intentions of the Democratic Party. However, the government will conclude a new three-party political agreement, and will solve present problems with a spirit of co-operation.

Clarifying government policies, KATAYAMA requested prudence on the part of left wing Socialists. Concerning counter-measures for the new party moves, he apparently wanted the National Farmers Union faction and the former Japan Labor Party faction to remain in the party for the purpose of minimizing the split in the Socialist Party as much as possible.

Opposed to the Premier's suggestion, left wing Socialists stated that laborers and farmers are about to forsake the Socialist Party entirely, and that party members, who were incessantly campaigning with the masses, had recently come to show blunt dissatisfaction with party leaders. They emphasized the advancement of party policies chiefly from the viewpoint of the party's unity and prosperity.

The left wing Socialists are expected to propose that the party urge HIRANO, Rikizo, and his followers, who plan to form a new party, to secede from the party for the sake of unity within the party, and that if worst comes to worst, the party should eliminate them from the membership.

In compliance with the desire of ministers from the Socialist party, roundtable discussions of this nature are to be held frequently in the future, which is an indication of intra-party maneuvers on the part of the government. During the course of future discussions, the attitude of left wing Socialists will become clear, and it is expected that the future course of the Socialist Party, which will hold a convention in view of the expected change in the political situation, will gradually become clear.

ITEM 6 Liberals Hold Secret Meeting in Osaka - Mainichi - 29 December 47.
Translator: A. Kawamura. (RL)

412.4

Full Translation:

(OSAKA) - Liberal Party President YOSHIDA, visiting KIOTO on 27 December, after finishing his speaking tours in KYUSHU and SHIKOKU districts, held a secret conference on 28 December of various party prefectural officials of the KENKI district.

At the meeting, held at the OTEMAE hall in OSAKA, YOSHIDA is believed to have revealed his opinion on the current political situation, particularly on the new party issue, the date of the merger, and the new party's platform.

At a press conference, YOSHIDA, however, refrained from dwelling on the new party issue, declaring that the time was not quite ripe for an announcement of his views.

412-3
ITEM 11 Leftists Dissatisfied with Present State of Socialist Party - Tokyo
Mimpo - 29 Dec 47. Translator: N. Tachibana. (MK)

Summary:

What is the true intention of the Socialist left-wing faction, which made a statement defining their position as "the opposition within the Socialist Party"? The following questions and answers concerning this question were exchanged with SUZUKI, Mosaburo, a leading leftist.

Question: The left-wing offensive constitutes one of the reasons for the political unrest. What are the plans of the left-wing elements?

Answer: We have always co-operated with the Socialist-led cabinet in an effort to put socialistic policies into practice, but the Government has gone to the side of the Democratic Party. Political and economic crisis are becoming more serious. If the status quo continues, it will be impossible to stabilize the people's livelihood. Unless we strongly reinforce the Katayama Cabinet now, our nation faces disaster.

POLITICAL SERIES: 2176 (Continued)ITEM 11 (Continued)

Question: What if the Katayama Cabinet cannot be reinforced?

Answer: Then the Katayama Cabinet should resign en bloc. It must not be allowed to continue in its present state.

Question: Please explain the government of the Democratic Party.

Answer: The Socialist Party was cajoled away from its stand on the state coal control issue by the Democratic Party. It submitted to the unreasonable demand of the Democratic and People's Co-operative Parties on the agriculture minister question. The Government's important policies pivoted around the price system were carried out without reference made to the Socialist Party and failed. I hear that a provisional promise was made to transfer political power to Democratic Party President ASHIDA, but ASHIDA is not confident of being able to cope successfully with the labor offensive. He prefers it to continue as a nominal Socialist-led cabinet, but substantially, a Democrat-run government.

Question: Would you say that the Socialist ministers have been taken advantage of by the Democratic Party?

Answer: No. They, NISHIO in particular, were not taken advantage of. They, merely, supported the Democratic Party.

Question: The Cancellation of payment of interest on wartime bonds has become a political issue. The Democratic Party says that it is impracticable, a mere political gesture. What do you think of this?

Answer: This problem is not too important. It is only one part of our claims. The Democratic Party opposes it in order to protect the banks. Finance Minister KURUSU said, "I will deal with the war bonds issue year after next; I cannot outline any plan now." It is absurd to say that what is practicable the year after next is impracticable next year. On 26 December we proposed that the Finance Ministry defer transferring the second frozen deposit to the first one. We want to compensate the losses of the banks with part of the 10,000,000,000 yen which will be changed to cash. This question is simple. We hope that the banks will be readjusted and democratized. That is the reason we demand the cancellation of interest on war bonds.

Question: If this policy is not adopted in compiling the budget, what steps will you take?

Answer: We will revise it in the Diet. If our demand is not met, we will not initiate a political struggle at once. We intend to fight over more important problems.

Question: What is your outlook on the current drive to form new parties?

Answer: Hirano's new party is too extreme. It tends to lean toward fascism, and its platform includes anti-communism. It is fresh in our memory, however, that in the prewar days the fascists planned to organize a permanent struggle against the Communist Party and, also, oppressed democratic influences. Political tacticians are active in a drive to form a new conservative party. It is strange that they have not yet determined their policy which is the life of a political party.

Question: Do you think that the new conservative party and Hirano's new party will merge?

Answer: No, I do not. If Hirano's party loses its leading figure, however, a merger may occur.

Question: What do you think of the present state of the Socialist Party? What is your policy concerning the coming party convention?

Answer: The Socialist Party must return to its original status. It will be ruined if it continues as it is. We shall probably gain support at the party convention, but it must be taken into account

POLITICAL SERIES: 2176 (Continued)

ITEM 11 (Continued)

that NISHIO's plot will check an accurate reflection of the will of the lower organizations. For example, when the party's secretary general was elected last year, NISHIO made it possible for Diet members to become representatives in violation of party rules. Recently he abolished this system, because he was afraid of the May Society Diet members. He extended the deadline for the payment of party membership fees, which was originally set at 20 December, to 5 Jan. In this manner he is working to gain advantage at the party convention. The chairmanship question requires careful consideration. Although we intend to oppose strongly the chief cabinet secretary's concurrently holding the post of the party's secretary general, at present we have no intention of splitting the Socialist Party.

ITEM 1 Socialists Have Four Factions - Kokusai Times - 28 Dec 47. Translator:
Y. Terasawa. (DD)

412-3

Full Translation:

When the Diet was adjourned the Socialist Party was being threatened by the new party move of Hirano's National Farmers' Union faction, as well as the offensive of the Socialist leftists who intend to change the Party policy. Now with a national convention before them on 16 Jan, the May Club (left wing), the Thursday Club (independent), the former Japan Labor Party faction, (right wing) and the Hirano group are each considering the respective policies they will take to the convention. At the same time they are also drawing up their own lines for greater unity and are attempting to muster Diet members in provincial districts.

Leaders of the May Club, such as INAMURA, Junzo (NIIGATA), OKADA, Haruo (HOKKAIDO), NAGAME, Kenji (OITA), and TANAKA, Orinoshin (WAKAYAMA) have already returned to TOKYO to develop left-wing measures. They met in the Diet Building on 24 Dec and discussed the Party policy. At the meeting they decided to support the budget policy recommended by the Socialist Political Affairs Investigation Committee, which would suspend payment of interests of war bonds and would institute a second property tax.

Moreover they decided to demand that the Government push such socialist planks as state management of electrical industries, democratization of banking facilities, third farmland reform and revision of the price-wage system. They will submit their resolutions to the central executive committee. The leftists also intend to nominate their own candidates for party chairman and chief-secretary and seek the exclusion of Socialist Cabinet ministers from the central executive committee.

Their plan at the convention is, first of all, to probe the attitude of KATAYAMA, NISHIO, the Thursday Club and the old Japan Labor Party faction. Depending on this they will decide on their policy toward personnel affairs.

Thursday Club Supports Left-wing Budget Policy

It is expected that MATSUMOTO, Jiichiro and KATO, Kanjū will be leftist candidates for chairman and chief-secretary, respectively, in case the leftists launch a struggle for party control from their own standpoint. On the other hand the Thursday Club insists that all Socialists should be unified under Chairman KATAYAMA and Chief-secretary ASANUMA. However, it is in general agreement with the left wing that the present Cabinet is substantially a Democrat Cabinet. The Club recognizes the necessity of a major change in Party policy; in regard to the budget policy, in particular, it is in full support of the left-wing position.

The Japan Labor Party faction is ideologically opposed to the left wing, but it is not fond of KATAYAMA and NISHIO after the latter's action in the Hirano affair. It is also very critical, from its own right-wing viewpoint, of the Katayama Cabinet for the characterless manner in which it has been led by the conservative influences.

Therefore, the central figures in the JLP faction, such as MORITA, NAGAE, and KATO (Ryo) are trying to prevent National Farmer Union Diet members from bolting the party and joining a new party with HIRANO. They have launched a positive movement to secure the leadership within the Socialist Party by mustering the rightist influences. They will hold a meeting in the House to discuss the policy to be taken in the future and to clarify their standpoints.

The Leftists and the JLP faction are greatly dissatisfied with KATAYAMA and NISHIO from their respective standpoints and they are in agreement that Party leadership and policy should be changed, though, here too, they have their own views of what the changes should be. Thus, with much in common despite their basic differences, their relations are quite delicate.

What measures NISHIO and others will take under these circumstances becomes a vital matter.

The NFU Hirano group, including TANAKA, Kenkichi (AKITA) and AKAMATSU, Meichoku (EHIME) is eagerly awaiting the establishment of a new party as soon as possible. It is afraid that it should be mercilessly attacked by the leftists for their dissidence, and will have no recourse because of their small number, if they should still be in the party by convention time.

It will postpone the establishment of a new party until the new year on account of other parties. It is doing its best in the meantime, to tighten the unity of the 20 members who are presumably in support of a new party movement.

ITEM 10 Socialists Confident of Keeping Government - Yomiuri - 30 Dec 47.
Translator: F. Ota. (MK)

412-3

Full Translation:

Justice Minister SUZUKI's report on the illegal movement of goods, including hoarding, and on the Osaka Armory case at a Socialist Ministers' Conference on 27 Dec has given the Socialist Party confidence that it can still cling to the Government.

It was expected at the conference that these disclosures together with the activities of the Illegal Transactions Investigation Committee, which will be established after the Diet reconvenes, will deal a heavy blow to the conservative front.

Chief Cabinet Secretary NISHIO at a press conference on 29 December declared firmly that there are no obstacles to stymie the present cabinet.

Meanwhile, the Liberal Party maintaining that it has committed no illegal transactions concerning hoarded goods issues, has declared its support of the Socialist proposal to clear up sources of election and political party funds. It has, also, decided to start to cooperate in the Diet investigation of illegal transactions and to issue a statement by President YOSHIDA on 30 December as soon as he returns to TOKYO.

The delicate situation created by the political party funds issue in the political world is growing more and more so, with the sudden revision of the Government ordinance concerning reports on political party funds and with its stricter penal regulations.

In order to clear up the sources of political party funds, the Diet intends to legislate a law to prevent election and political party corruption. That the Government, before the realization of the law, suddenly revised the Government ordinance and ordered that reports on political fund sources be submitted by 15 Jan is believed by some quarters to be a government countermove against the new party movements.

With the Socialist Minister's Conference on 27 December as a start, the Government clarified its determination to handle the present critical situation, backed by a majority in the Diet. Thus, it is probable that a considerable change will be effected in political situations from the end of this year to the beginning of next year.

4/2.3

Disharmony Within the Socialist Party

The strong stand taken by the left-wing faction within the Social Democratic Party in insisting upon the selection of Vice-Chairman Nomizo of the Japan Farmers Union to head the vacated Agriculture and Forestry portfolio has brought to the fore a new phase in the inter-factional relationships within the Socialist ranks.

This new relationship was signaled by the sudden emergence of Commerce and Industry Minister Mizutani as the Prime Minister's trouble-shooter in attempting to patch up the differences between the People's Cooperative Party and the Socialist left-wingers over the question of Mr. Nomizo's appointment.

By this move, it has become clear now that Chief Cabinet Secretary Nishio is in the bad graces of the left-wing faction. Earlier, before the ousting of right-wing leader Rikizo Hirano from his position of influence in the party, Mr. Nishio held the balance of power between the right and left-wing elements. But with the lessening of right-wing power in the party, the left-wing elements capitalized on the situation to spread their influence. It was natural that they should then collide with Mr. Nishio, who was not adroit enough to dodge their new upward surge.

Mr. Nishio fell into the bad grace of the left-wingers for his seeming duplicity in accepting Mr. Nomizo's nomination for the sole purpose of maintaining party solidarity while the coal mines control measure was having its difficult pull through the House of Representatives. Once the coal mines bill was approved by the Lower House, Mr. Nishio turned cold to the idea of placing Mr. Nomizo in a ministerial post, since it might disrupt Cabinet unity.

Gaining the support of the neutral faction by nominating Mr. Nomizo, a moderate Socialist, the left-wingers now control at least one half of the 140 Socialist seats in the Lower Chamber. About twenty-five right-wing Socialists belonging to the National Farmers Union, while to Mr. Nomizo, are decidedly anti-Nishio because of the part the Chief Cabinet Secretary played in ousting Mr. Hirano from the Cabinet and discrediting him in the party. Mr. Nishio's position in the party at the present time is thus far from secure.

If the left-wing faction insists upon the appointment of Mr. Nomizo, it may bring on a Cabinet crisis, for the People's Cooperative and Democratic parties are stubbornly opposing his nomination.

Rumors are afloat that the Socialist left-wingers may take this opportunity to sabotage the Cabinet leadership so that their leaders will have to give way to the Democrats. The left-wing faction is well aware that the popularity of the Cabinet and the Socialist

Party has fallen since the last elections and so it may be preparing for an eventual Cabinet collapse by maneuvering to transfer the leadership, and hence the responsibility, for the Cabinet to the Democrats.

But it is difficult to see how the left-wing elements will be able to profit by deliberately torpedoing the present Socialist leadership in the Cabinet. The Democrats still appear stunned by the recent resignation and expulsion of twenty-one members and are in no way fit to assume the leadership of the Cabinet.

If the Socialists at this time admit their failure to lead the Administration, they will be playing into the very hands of the arch-conservative Liberals, who will doubtlessly sagely nod and say "I told you so." But it is evident that the Liberals are not too anxious to take over the Government.

The left-wing Socialists must realize that these are difficult times and any cabinet will find it difficult to see the nation through the present economic and financial crises confronting the nation. What is needed now in the Socialist Party is unity, and not disharmony. In the interests of a strong progressive element in the Japanese political sphere, it is to be hoped that the Socialists will patch up their internal differences and strive even harder and with even greater sincerity to lead the nation.

DEC 8 1947

●●● ON TIMES

Rightist Socialists Begin Move To Form New Political Party

Nat'l Farmers' Union, Agrarian Party, Others Taking Active Lead

TOKYO, Dec. 17.—A movement to form a new political party (tentatively called the Greater Japan Labor Party) is now moving in full swing.

Socialist members affiliated with the National Farmers' Union and the New Political Consultative Council, which was recently established by Diet members belonging to the People's Cooperative Party, Dai-ichi Glin Club and Agrarian Party, are said to be constituting the core of this movement.

Among those acting as promoters are Meichoku Akamatsu, Den Takase, Takashi Kano and Kenkichi Tanaka of the Socialist National Farmers' Union; Takashi Hayakawa, Daisuke Akita, Ichitaro Ide, Yasuro Taka, and Juchi Kuroiwa of the People's Cooperative Party; Masaoki Tsunajima and Torata Nakamura of the Agrarian Party; and Sukeji Soma and Masanobu Oda of the Dai-ichi Glin Club.

The new party will bid for the support of the working masses under the banner of Social Democracy.

MAINICHI DEC 18 1947

Rightists Expected To Desert Socialists

Hirano Faction Will Urge Katayama, Nishio To Quit

TOKYO, Dec. 17.—A group of rightist Socialist members supporting former Agriculture Minister Rikizo Hirano is expected to break away from the Socialist Party in the near future.

At yesterday's meeting held at Meichoku Akamatsu's home at Kudan, they decided to urge the resignation of Chairman Tetsu Katayama and Secretary Suehiro Nishio prior to their secession from the party.

They gave as their reason the alleged responsibility of Katayama and Nishio for causing a split of the Socialist Party into the leftist and rightist factions.

MAINICHI DEC 18 1947

LIBERAL PARTY WINS AT NIGATA ELECTION

Gains 40% of Votes in Poll to Fill Two Vacant Seats in Lower House

An overwhelming victory was gained by the Liberal Party in the by-election for the House of Representatives in the first electoral district of Niigata Prefecture, Saturday, with the Liberals obtaining about 40 per cent of the votes cast, while the Social Democratic Party had less than 10 per cent.

Hiroshi Matsumoto, 69, lawyer, of the Liberal Party, won 23,439 votes, and Yoshiyuki Funasaki, 54, Democrat, former president of the Japan Penicillin Manufacturing Company, got 21,885 votes to be elected to the two vacant seats in the House of Representatives. Kihachi Takasugi, independent came third with 14,844 votes.

The total voters in the district was 270,397, but ballots were cast by 89,088, showing that 181,309 or 67 per cent of the total franchise holders had absented themselves from the polls. Of the 89,088 votes cast, the Liberal Party received 37,232 votes, the Democratic Party 21,885, the Social Democratic Party 7,778, the People's Cooperative Party 2,063, the Communist Party 4,509, and independents 14,844.

With the election of one Liberal and one Democrat from the first electoral district of Niigata, the members of the House of Representatives are now divided into 140 Social Democrats, 121 Liberals, 104 Democrats, 32 People's Cooperatives, 22 Doshi Club, 15 Daiichi Club, 8 Farmers' Party, 4 Communists, and 3 independents, making a total of 449, with 17 vacancies.

●●● ON TIMES

DEC 22 1947

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The Socialists' Left-Wing Problem

The Agriculture and Forestry portfolio has brought nothing but trouble to the Social Democratic Party. The ouster of Rikizo Hirano from the post alienated the right-wing faction which is now vigorously negotiating with elements within the People's Cooperative Party for a merger into a new party. The appointment of Kanae Hatano to the post angered the party's left-wingers who promptly declared their intention of becoming an "opposition" within the party. Some neutral members, moreover, were displeased because Eiji Tomiyoshi was not appointed to the post.

This factional strife within the Socialist party, however, is not a sudden development brought on by the controversy over the Agriculture and Forestry post. The struggle over the Cabinet seat merely served as a convenient background for the real struggle for power among the various Socialist party factions, which include the Satsukikai, Japan Farmers Union, Social Cultural Society, Mokuyokai, Mumeikai, and the National Farmers Union.

The surging rise of the Socialist party into power at the April elections was due in a great part to the tremendous voter appeal exerted by the left-wing faction. The formation of the Katayama Cabinet, however, was made possible only at the sacrifice of the same left-wing elements who had to drop into the background to make way for the four-party policy agreement. Obviously the left-wingers felt cheated of their rightful reward for elevating their party into a position of prominence.

Being seasoned Socialists, the left-wing leaders, however, are used to reverses and they bided their time. Their opportunity to regain their influence in the party came with the dismissal of Mr. Hirano which marked a sudden drop in right-wing power. Consequently, the left-wingers insisted strongly upon the appointment of Masaru Nomizo, vice-chairman of the leftist Japan Farmers Union but known for his anti-communist sentiments. Through Mr. Nomizo, the left-wingers felt their opinions could be best represented without antagonizing the conservative partners in the coalition Cabinet. Contrary to their expectations, however, the People's Cooperative and Democratic parties vigorously opposed Mr. Nomizo.

One of the reasons put forth by the opponents of Mr. Nomizo's appointment to the Agriculture and Forestry post was that his choice would run counter to the four-party policy agreement. It was thus only natural that the left-wingers should blast out against this agreement which has been holding them in check since the formation of the Katayama Cabinet. Left-wing leader Mosaburo Suzuki therefore proposed the scrapping of the policy set-up, which he claimed had already been abrogated in effect by the Liberals when they decided on their status as an out-and-out Opposition party. At the same time, Mr. Suzuki asked for a vigorous prosecution of socialist policies in drafting the budget for the next fiscal year.

Some circles have suggested that the sudden vociferousness of the left-wing Socialists is a pre-arranged plan to whip up popular support for the Social Democratic Party. They argue that it is strange that the left-wingers, who have been so quiet during the Diet session, should suddenly find their voice now that the legislature has gone into recess. They feel that once the Diet reopens its session, the left-wing elements will again lapse into silence.

But this line of reasoning is difficult to understand in view of the subsequent statements made by Chief Cabinet Secretary Nishio to the press where he denied that the four-party policy agreement was dead or that such socialist platforms as the suspension of interest payment on wartime public bonds would be enforced. It may be that

Mr. Nishio is unwilling to give in to the demands of the left-wing elements. In the struggle for power within the party, Mr. Nishio cannot afford at this time to allow the left-wingers to gain even a single semblance of victory, for one concession will lead to another. And again, it may be that he is still leaving the door open for the entry of the Liberal Party into the coalition Cabinet. With the peace conference generally expected next spring, the Prime Minister doubtlessly feels that a coalition among all four major parties would be the best possible arrangement.

Whatever Mr. Nishio's reasons may be, he is fully aware of the seriousness of the crisis facing the Socialist party. He made this clear when he admitted that the party convention in January would be most difficult. Eighty left-wing Diet members will have a large voice at the convention, and they will most likely exert every effort to wrest party leadership from the middle-of-the-course Socialists.

It is highly improbable that the left-wingers will ever bolt the party or deliberately wreck the three-party coalition. Still, it is earnestly to be hoped that a proper understanding would be reached among all Socialists to work harmoniously in the interests of the nation.

The left-wing elements should realize the difficulties of putting socialist policies into effect within a coalition set-up. Any policy would naturally have to be tempered and modified, as proved by the recent coal control bill over which twenty-odd dissatisfied Democrats bolted their party. The left-wingers should not ask the impossible.

Unity within the Social Democratic Party is of prime importance to the country because of the Socialist position as the first party and as the leader of the coalition Cabinet. A split in Socialist ranks would have unpleasant repercussions upon the whole of the nation's political and economic life.

NIPPON TIMES DEC 20 1947

Socialist Nat'l Convention To Be Held Jan. 16-19

TOKYO, Dec. 14.—The central executive committee of the Socialist Party announced that the Socialist national convention will be held at the auditorium of Chuo University, Kanda, Tokyo, for four days beginning January 16.

The agenda includes (1) revision of the covenant, (2) party's activities for the present, and (3) campaign for establishment of the headquarters.

MAINICHI DEC 16 1947

Liberals To Form Conservative Party

Promoters Of Move Plan Establishment By Mid-Jan.

TOKYO, Dec. 18.—In concert with a new party movement now launched by a rightist Socialist group and the New Political Consultative Council, the Liberal Party also has bounced into brisk activities to form a big conservative party through fusion of the Democrats, Doshi Club, Dai-ichi Giin Club and Agrarian Party.

Promoters of the movement plan to establish the new party by mid-January.

On Tuesday, December 16, Banboku Ono, Liberal Secretary-General, invited Shun-ichi Homma, Shun-ei Azuma and Kaju Nakamura of the Doshi Club.

On the following day at 2 p.m. the Liberals held a meeting of its members now staying in Tokyo at the party headquarters to work out substantial programs for the new conservative party.

MAINICHI DEC 19 1947

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Inadvisability of Left-Wing Socialist Proposals

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Left-wing Social Democrats, in their eagerness to prove their adherence to the socialist ideology, have submitted two impossible demands to the Katayama Cabinet. These demands call for the suspension of interest payments on war bonds and the imposition of a second capital levy in connection with the compilation of the new budget.

The left-wingers have threatened to withdraw their support from the Cabinet if these provisions are not included. Although these demands can hardly be taken seriously in view of the strong opposition voiced by Democratic Party leaders and the reluctance shown by Socialist Cabinet Ministers, the further alienation of the left-wing elements may cause embarrassment to the Social Democratic leadership in the Cabinet.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Nishio has already gone on record to declare that these left-wing proposals would be extremely difficult of fulfillment under the present circumstances. By present circumstances, Mr. Nishio doubtlessly meant the coalition set-up of the Cabinet. The suspension of interest payments on war bonds and the imposition of an over-all capital levy were planks on which the Socialist party stood for election in April, and if the Social Democratic Party were the sole party in power, these steps would not be impossible to fulfill. The coalition nature of the Katayama Cabinet, however, rendered it necessary to temper most of the socialist pledges with the views advocated by the coalition partners.

But it is doubtful, from the broad standpoint of public interest, whether such measures should be adopted by the Government. The problem before the Government in this emergency is fundamentally the problem of restoring the faith of the people in the credit of the Government. It is highly problematical whether these left-wing Socialist proposals will restore that faith.

The suspension of interest payments on war bonds, to the contrary, would alienate the confidence of the people in bonds issued by the Government. The amount which the Government would be able to save from this step is estimated at no more than three or four billion yen. But the question is whether or not the small amount saved would counter-balance the loss of public confidence in the future bond issues of the Government. This should not be difficult to answer. If the Government is able to suspend interest payment on bonds once, it may do so again in the future. If interest payments can be repudiated, the principal itself may next be repudiated.

Then again, financial institutions would be seriously hit if interests payments on war bonds were to be suspended, for they were forced to absorb large blocs of war bonds by the Government during the war. Many private banks have been operating on the basis of these bonds. Suspension of payment accompanied by the nationalization of all financial institutions would be a logical step, but it is certain that the coalition partners would never agree to the state control of the nation's banks.

The second capital levy proposal forwarded by the left-wing Socialists may also be considered inadvisable at this time, since it would only lead to increased anxiety and unrest among the people. What the left-wingers mean exactly by the second capital levy is not known, but any tax in excess of the income and property taxes can hardly be popular with the masses. The first capital levy was raised only during the current fiscal year and it is hardly advisable to impose a similar tax so soon. It will lead the people to the dangerous state of mind that if the Government can tax twice, it will do so thrice and ad infinitum.

The net revenue to the Government, moreover, will total only several billion yen even if collected thoroughly, but it will have

serious repercussions among the people. The difficulty of collecting such a tax properly is yet another problem which the Government will have to face as seen from its experience in gathering the first capital levy.

The proposals of the left-wing Socialists thus will only tend to bring about a lack of confidence in the Government. The monetary savings to the Government will be insignificant in the face of public clamor against the measures.

At a time when faith in the credit of the Government is all-important, the Cabinet must not show the people that it has no intention of fulfilling its promise to pay, as in the instance of suspending payments on bonds, and that it will tax heedlessly, as in the case of imposing a second capital levy. The feeling must be created that Government bonds are secure and that money invested in them is safe. It must also be proved, before considering further taxation, that the Government is willing first of all to reduce the costs of administration in proportion to the reduction of the people's income brought about by the present inflation.

DEC 27 1947

NIPPON TIMES

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412.3

NFU SOCIALISTS SET TO BOLT FROM PARTY

Left-Wing Faction May Move To Challenge Katayama—Nishio Leadership

A decision to bolt the Social Democratic Party was formally reached by Socialist members of the National Farmers Union at their meeting yesterday at the Union headquarters. The split will be accomplished before the Socialist party convention on January 16.

NFU President Toyohiko Kagawa in announcing the decision said that with the rise of the left-wing elements, the Social Democratic Party is now supporting communism. Consequently, the NFU cannot continue to back the party.

The NFU represents the right-wing elements of the Socialist party who are under the leadership of ex-Agriculture and Forestry Minister Rikizo Hirano.

Meanwhile, informed sources revealed that the left-wing faction headed by Mosaburo Suzuki and Kanju Kato are believed determined to challenge the Katayama-Nishio combination now dominating the Socialist party. At the coming party convention, the left-wingers are expected to nominate Upper House Vice-President Ji-ichiro Matsumoto as party chairman and either Mr. Kato or Inejiro Asanuma as secretary-general.

NFU Diet members conferred Sunday with representatives of the People's Cooperative Party, the Daiichi Club, and the Japan Farmers Party on the issue of forming a new party. Another meeting is scheduled next Sunday with Socialists affiliated with the General Federation of Trade Unions.

A general conference of all parties campaigning for the new party will be held on January 5. Right-wingers are hoping that the People's Cooperatives will decide on amalgamation with the new party at its general meeting on January 7.

Informed circles revealed that People's Cooperative Secretary-General Seiichi Okada, who is at present in Shikoku, informed members working for the new party that he is willing to see the party join the new party as a

(Continued on Page 2)

NFU Socialists Set To Bolt From Party

(Continued from Page 1)

whole. Communications Minister Takeo Miki, leading member of the party, however, is still opposed to the move.

Optimistic estimates by the sponsors of the new party reveal that 24 Socialists, 30 People's Cooperatives, 15 Daiichi Club and Japan Farmers Party members, and several Liberals will join the movement. Observers believe, however, that if Mr. Hirano is purged, Socialists joining the party will be reduced by about ten.

Meanwhile, Liberal Party members are expected to hold an "emergency general meeting" on December 28 to decide formally their participation in the "federation for the early organization of a new party" being sponsored by the Doshi Club, headed by Kijuro Shidehara.

NIPPON TIMES DEC 23 1947

Right, Left Wing Socialist Split Said Not Serious

By ESTHER CRANE, Staff Writer

The present dissension between the right and left wing Socialists is not viewed as a serious threat to the party's solidarity by Socialist Cabinet Secretary Suehiro Nishio, according to the latter's first press conference since his recent return from Kyushu.

Nishio, who is believed by many political observers to be the dominating force behind the Katayama Cabinet, has expressed optimism concerning coming political developments between now and the scheduled reconvening of the Diet on January 21.

The right-wing Socialists, who have threatened to secede from the party and form a new group with former Agriculture and Forestry Minister Hirano as the standard bearer, have decreased in fervor since their last week's rebellion rally. Lack of decision on the purge policy for Hirano, and the refusal of the Osaka Prefectural Council's National Farmers' Union to join the proposed new party are two major reasons for lessening the right wing opposition.

Another cooling factor with regard to the Socialist and other prevalent party splits, is the indifference of the Upper House members toward all the new party movements. Few House of Councillor members have even bothered to show up at their party headquarters since the Diet went into recess on December 9, and it is obvious that dissension against the Katayama Cabinet cannot be fanned by Lower House members alone.

STARS & STRIPES DEC 30 1947

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412.3 Democratic Party President Hitoshi Ashida issued statement on 31 May declaring Democratic Party decided to join Katayama cabinet because present crisis requires cooperation among political parties. He expressed confidence in Social Democratic Party's "faithfulness" with regard to "left-wing" issue. 2 JUN 1947

412.3 Central Executive Committee of Social Democratic Party appointed Inejiro Asanuma as acting secretary general until next Party convention. Suehiro Nishio retains title Secretary General. Nishio also holds two posts in new government, as Minister without Portfolio and Chief Cabinet Secretary. 8 JUN 1947

412.3 Manitsu Tanaka, Vice-speaker of House of Representatives announced resignation from Democratic Party 28 June. Decision to quit party follows precedent of former Speakers and Vice-speakers who renounced party ties in order to discharge their official duties as independents. Speaker of House, Konakichi Matsuoka, has not indicated if he will resign from Social Democratic Party. 30 JUN 1947

412.3 Joint statement opposing series of oratorical tours to explain Social Democratic Party policies which Cabinet Ministers are planning to make was issued 29 August by Liberal, Communist and Japan Farmers' Parties and Dai Ichi Dietmen's Club. 30 AUG 1947

412.3 Social Democratic Party's Special Committee for Realization of Coal Mines State Control issued instructions to Party's local chapters throughout the country to organize mass movement in support of State control plan now before House of Representatives. Committee is headed by Mosaburo Suzuki, chairman of Political Affairs Research Committee of Social Democratic Party. 1 OCT 1947

412.3 Upper House Social Democrats made strong representations to their party against decision of liaison conference of the three Government parties in Lower House on 29 September to override through a two-thirds majority vote the Upper House amendment to State Compensation Bill. 1 OCT 1947

412.3 Social Democratic Party, under leadership of Chief Cabinet Secretary Nishio, launched a drive to eliminate rivalry and friction between Japan Farmers' Union, which is led by left-wing Social Democrats and National Farmers' Union, led by right-wing Social Democrats. 7 OCT 1947

412.3 Jiichiro Matsumoto, Social Democrat and vice-president of House of Councillors, opposed Chief Cabinet Secretary Nishio's proposal that Japan Farmers' Union definitely break with Communist Party. 13 OCT 1947

412.3 Prime Minister Katayama, speaking before Lower House Foreign Affairs Committee, on 16 October insisted that communism is incompatible with principles of Social Democratic Party. He said Social Democrats, in cooperating with other two parties of coalition government have even jettisoned many socialistic policies in favor of "high-degree democracy." He also denied charge that his Cabinet is weak, declaring that although Cabinet is coalition it is united in its efforts to achieve economic reconstruction and enjoys support of the people. 20 OCT 1947

412.3 Social Democratic Diet members affiliated with National Farmers' Union resolved on 4 November to eschew action tending to split Social Democratic Party and to sweep away "unpleasant atmosphere" resulting from Hirano's removal. 6 NOV 1947

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412.3 Social Democratic members of both houses of Diet on 19 November unanimously passed a resolution pledging themselves to consolidating party unity "in view of the grave political situation" and to support Katayama Cabinet in the interests of helping to overcome the national economic crisis. Left-wing adherents of Japan Farmers' Union and right-wingers of National Farmers' Union approved the unity resolution.

OUTGOING MESSAGES-SRS 24 NOV 1947

412.3 Social Democratic Party on 8 December published its program regarding formulation of the 1948-49 general budget. Program calls for suspension of interest on wartime bonds, initiation of public works to combat unemployment and levying of heavy taxes on big blackmarketeers.

OUTGOING MESSAGES-SRS 11 DEC 1947

412.3 Chief Cabinet Secretary Nishio declared on 19 December that Social Democrats would welcome a new three-party agreement but expressed apprehension of Social Democratic left wing adoption of such measures as suspension of interest on war bonds and a second property tax.

OUTGOING MESSAGES-SRS 22 DEC 1947

412.3 Twenty-four Social Democratic Diet members affiliated with National Farmers' Union, which is headed by former Minister of Agriculture Hirano, on 22 December announced intention to withdraw from Social Democratic Party by 16 January at which time the Party's convention convenes. Representatives of the dissident group also indicated intention to form new party in collaboration with the New Political Council.

OUTGOING MESSAGES-SRS 25 DEC 1947

412.3